

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE ENGLISH NATION.

Saturday, September 14. 1706.

I Cannot conclude my Observations on the Matter of the War, without employing one of these Papers to do Justice to the Parties in *Italy*; the Fidelity, Constancy, and unshaken Resolution of the Duke of *Savoy* exceeds Story, and surpasses what indeed we ought to expect from an Ally.

If we examine his Circumstances, when he first entred into this second Alliance with the Confederacy, we shall find him under all the discouraging Cases imaginable; the old disciplin'd Troops, and the best of his Officers were surpriz'd and disarm'd in the French Army, and made Prisoners; his Frontiers without Garrisons, his Magazines without Stores, his Towns unprovided, their Fortifications wanting Repair.

From that time forward, the growing Power of *France*, and the improvident Management of the Imperial Court, left him in a most desperate Condition; the surprizing March of the imperial Army under General *Strembergh* did indeed put new Vigour into him, but 'twas all put together, a Strength too weak for him to appear in the Field, or indeed to stand his Ground.

The French then turn'd Head upon him at once, besieg'd his strong Towns, took *Vercell*, *Ivrea* and *Verue*, three of the strongest Fortresses in *Lombardy*, made all their Garrisons Prisoners of War, and at last reduc'd him to his only Strength, the City of *Turin*.

Thus with his whole Country ruin'd, his People impoverish'd, his Towns all taken; nay, and to add to all this, his Friends the

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Germans routed at the Beginning of the Campaign by the Duke of Vendome, and push'd quite out of the *Brescian*, and over the *Adige* into the *Veroneſe* and *Trentine*.

Yet after all this, he suffers himself to be shut up in his Capital City, his Family suffer Banishment, and flye in a desolate manner over the Mountains and the Sea, to seek shelter at *Genoa*—And himself retreats to the Valleys; that the Emblem of his Deliverance by Protestants may be before his Eyes, God is pleas'd to bring him to take shelter with his Protestant Subjects—Where the Posterity of these brave Christians, whom his Ancestors massacred and destroy'd, are now the Sanctuary and Defence of the Posterity of their Fathers Murtherers.

Brought thus to the last Extremity, Heaven seems to return to him again, and the Approach of his Friends revive his Hopes; he is supported by the Queen of *England* and the States of *Holland*, supply'd with Money, Ammunition and Stores—The *German* Army encourag'd by *English* Money, well paid and well provided, push heartily on, and we have great Reason to believe, he is either already, or will soon be deliver'd from all his Fears, and restor'd to the Possession of his Country and People.

From this short Review of the Duke of *Savoy*, I make two brief Remarks.

1. Constancy and Fidelity engage all Men to assist and protect the Subject of it, whether in publick or in private Persons. When any Man hears of the Constancy of the Duke of *Savoy*, what's the constant Answer? every body says, 'tis pity he should not be deliver'd, 'tis pity such an Ally should be ruin'd, 'tis pity he should not have Encouragement.

A faithful Friend engages a Friend to stand by him, and a faithful Ally requires, and indeed demands to be faithfully assisted; and generally speaking, an unusual Fidelity does meet with Regard from all the World; whether it be private or publick, whether in Persons, States, Countries, or Confederacies.

2. The Duke of *Savoy*, as he has been faithfully and constantly true to his Allies; so he has been faithfully, and I believe, effectually supported and supply'd by the

Confederates. They have not only perform'd Conditions with him, but Circumstances consider'd even beyond Expectation, have made frequent and powerful Additions to their stipulated Aids — And his Highness has frequently acknowledg'd it, particularly to the Queen of *England*, and the States of *Holland*.

And that I may not boast of what has no Evidence in it, let any Man look back into the Care taken of him from hence in the Impotence and Uncertainty of the Imperial Councils, and when the *German* Empire was not in a Condition to maintain its Footing in *Italy*—Let them examine the several Treaties, which the King of *Prussia*, settled and obtain'd by the Wisdom and Prudence of his Grace the Duke of *Marlborough*; by which Assistance of the *Prussians*, the Affair was supported last Year, and if it had not been so, must have sunk quite down, and the Duke of *Savoy* been quite ruin'd, before this glorious Turn of Affairs had happen'd to restore him.

These Relief, however appearing at last insufficient, new Treaties have been carry'd on in Favour of the Duke of *Savoy*, with the Elector Palatine for 7000 Men, with the Landgrave of *Hesse* for 10000 Men, and Money borrow'd in *England* for the Pay and Furnishing these Armies.

The Reputation gain'd by the Duke of *Savoy* in this Case, is not greater as to his faithful Adherence to his Allies, than the Reputation of the Allies is also rais'd in their Diligence and Care to uphold and support the Duke of *Savoy*; by this, the Princes and States of *Europe* will be encourag'd on all occasions to depend upon the punctual Compliance with Treaties, and the powerful Assistance of such Potentates as are not only able to stand by them, but that never forsake them in their Distress, nor abate the Vigour of their Endeavours for their Relief.

The Duke of *Savoy* is a remarkable Instance of the Honour and punctual Regard, which the *English* aid *Dut* & maintain with their Allies; how safe it is to relye on them, how certain they are to be relied that trust them, and how effectually they will retrieve their Disasters.

In these Observations, I cannot but note of the Duke of Savoy, the powerful Sollicitations of the French Court, and the extraordinary Offers made to him, if he would change Hands and fall in a second Time with the French; the Motions from Nature as well as Interest, his two Daughters entirely in the other Interest, given up to the French, and married to the succeeding Heads of the Fortune of Bourbon, and their constant Sollicitations cannot be supposed to be wanting; let them see the Duke de Feuillide offering him Peace and prodigious Advantages on one hand, and holding the Sword in the other hand point'd at his Capital City of Turin.

Where's the Prince could have resisted these moving Arguments, or preserv'd his Fidelity under such Pressures as these?

I know, some People rejoice in the sufferings of the Duke of Savoy; because they say, he and his Fathers have been cruel and bloody Persecutors of the Protestants in their Dominions, and they ~~would~~ have the Vengeance of God compleated in his Destruction.

to answer for the Massacres of former Days.

To this I shall say nothing, but my Observation of God's Providence to Persecutors is thus far confirm'd in the Case of the Duke of Savoy; and it seems very remarkable, That God Almighty has thought fit, as I have already noted, to put the Duke of Savoy in mind of his Displeasure, for the Persecutions and Blood of his Protestant Subjects cruelly treated in former Times.

1. By reducing him to the last Extremity in this War, by the Fury and Tyranny of that same French Power, which push'd them upon all those bloody things, and almost forc'd them upon the Cruelties of destroying their Protestant Subjects.

2. By driving him to the Necessity of seeking Protection and Assistance from those very Protestant Powers they formerly hated, and from the very Vandals, who have on all occasions been the Subjects of those Cruelties.

I shall pursue this Subject farther, when I come to examine the Downfall of Persecution in the Overthrow of French Power.

MISCELLANEA.

SIR,

WE have a strange Circumstance happen'd in our Parish lately, which having already puzzl'd our Casuists, Divines and Civilians, is at last refer'd to you to decide, and perhaps your Judgment may be very useful in the Case.

Several Children being brought to the Church to be Baptized, and the Crowd being great, after the Office for Baptism was read, and the Children presented to the Font, the Parson by Mistake christen'd two Children wrong, viz. the Boy MARY, and the Girl ROBERT — The Parents being very uneasie, apply to the Ministers to rectify this Mistake, and they say it cannot be done; the Lawyers and Civilians, and some say, the Bishop have been consulted in this Case, and no body can agree; the Churchmen say, Baptism cannot be administered twice, and the Names cannot be alter'd; others say, the Children may be re-nam'd and right registered; your Opinion is desir'd in this Matter with all possible Plainness and Speed.

I suppose the Persons, who send this Letter, expect I should make some very good Jeff out of this Matter, and that the Clergyman should be expos'd by me, or the Method, or the Scruple of re-baptizing, or some such thing — But in all these, they will be equally mistaken.

To me the Mistake here is not stated, and perhaps not right examin'd; and I would ask here, if the Minister had not the Names given him by the Godfathers, just as they were baptiz'd; if so, how can they be alter'd? for then any Godfather or Father may come and alledge a wrong Name, and re-baptize to the End of the Chapter. If it be said, it was the Minister's Mistake, where then were their Eats, and why did they not immediately hesitate and recover it? now, if it was the Ministers Mistake first, it was the Peoples lait, and I do not see, how they can expect the Church should mend it.

If they will have my Advice, I'll tell them in short ; there is a Dutch Gentlewoman at Chelſeſ, one Mrs. Ormſton, famous for reducing Crockedneſſ and Deformities in Children, which ſhe learn'd from the more famous Van Helmont, who did Wonders that way — Now I would advise the Parents to ſend to this Gentlewoman to ſee, if ſhe can cure this literai Deformity ; and if not, then ſend the Godfathers thither to have a Cure for their crooked Underſtandings, that could not diſtinguiſh when a Female Child was call'd Robin, that it was a Miltake among them.

ERRATA.

REVIEW, No. 108. Page 430. Col. 1. Line 31. for general Form, r. general Farm, and dele the Conim, Col. 2. l. 16. for for r. or. p. 431. col. 1. l. 22. for bring up. r. bring it up, p. 432. col. 11 l. 46. for ſerve. r. ſerve him.

REVIEW, No. 109, p. 434. col. 1. l. 30. for cannot ſmile; r. cannot but ſmile. in the first Advertiſement, p. 436. col. 1. l. 14. for Lector. r. Rector.

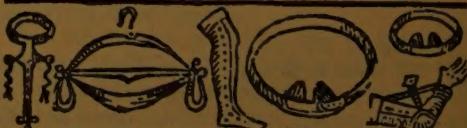
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